

Tower Grove Park Shelters Nineteen and Twenty
(Wellhouses)
Tower Grove Park
4255 Arsenal Street
St. Louis
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1137-0

HABS
MO,
96-SALV,
46-O-

PHOTOGRAPHS
REDUCED COPY OF MEASURED DRAWING
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

TOWER GROVE PARK SHELTERS NINETEEN AND TWENTY
(WELLHOUSES)HABS
MO,
96-SALV
46-0-

Location: Park headquarters at 4255 Arsenal Street, St. Louis, Missouri. The shelters lie 1800' west of the east gate on Grand Boulevard. Shelter nineteen is on the north, and shelter twenty on the south edge of the main east-west drive, within the original boundaries of Tower Grove Park.

USGS Cahokia Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 15.739600.4276480 and
USGS Cahokia Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 15.739580.4276330

Present Owner: City of St. Louis

Present Use: Public picnic shelter

Significance: The structures are well-preserved examples of the picturesque and eclectic design favored by British and American landscape architects in the nineteenth century. This pair of structures in a simple temple form is among the most stylistically pure in the park.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1870-1871 (Tower Grove Park Comptroller's Report 1868, p.66, 9/7/70, and p.122, 6/27/71).
2. Architect: Eugene L. Greenleaf (Comp. 1868, p.122, 6/27/71). For biographical information see the HABS report on Tower Grove Park (MO-1137).
3. Original and subsequent owners: The City of St. Louis. For property description, see the HABS report on Tower Grove Park (MO-1137).
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Carpenter Joel McFern received \$250 for work "on the two well-houses at the first turnout" (Comp. 1868, pp.66, 9/7/70). The iron roof-ridge ornament was supplied by T.R. Pullis and Brother of St. Louis (Comp. 1868, p.130, 8/12/71).
5. Original plans, constructions, etc.: These identical structures were listed in Shaw's synopsis of completed Park Work in 1872 as constituting half of a set of four combination well and summer houses for "accommodation of basket parties" (Shaw Synopsis). These structures are now known as shelters seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, and twenty, and face each other on the north end south edges of the main east-west drive. Seventeen and eighteen are not identical, but both are octagons surmounted by cupolas. Nineteen and twenty are of the same design.

6. Alterations and additions:

The well pumps were removed in compliance with the 1915 order of the City Board of Health (Annual Report of the Board, 1915, 1/19/16, p.10).

B. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

a. Manuscripts, etc.: Henry Shaw's Synopsis of Work Done in Park from 1868-1872; his Comptroller Report Books 1868, 1875, 1882, and 1888; the Minutes of the Board of Commissioners from 1869-1898; and the Tower Grove Park Receipts and Vouchers for 1867-1889 are in the custody of Park Superintendent Miss Bernice E. Gurney and probably will be transferred from her office at 4274 Magnolia Avenue to the Shaw Manuscript Collection at the Missouri Botanical Garden's John S. Lehmann Library, 2345 Tower Grove Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, by the end of the summer of 1974.

b. Deed Books: City Hall, Market St. St. Louis, Missouri.

2. Secondary Sources:

Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners, Tower Grove Park.
St. Louis: Nixon-Jones Printing, 1899-1919.

_____. St. Louis: Arcade Print Shop, 1920.

_____. St. Louis: Mound City Press, 1921-1942.

_____. St. Louis: Allied Printing, 1942-1959.

MacAdam, David H. Tower Grove Park. St. Louis: R.P. Studley and Co.,
1883.

Prepared by: Carolyn Hamm
Field Historian
National Park Service
St. Louis, Missouri
July, 1974

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General statement:

1. Architectural character: The two pavilions of identical open temple-like design and color have classical revival features and a T-plan and are among the most stylistically pure of the pavilions in the Park.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: T-shape, 24'-3" (3-bay north and south fronts), each bay 7'-5" wide; by 16'-9" (2 bays); one story, 14' high.
2. Foundation: Stone blocks under piers.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Square in plan and having one rectangular full-length panel with molding on each face. The roof is carried by ten cast-iron piers. They are painted chocolate brown. The columns support low arches with plain solid spandrels and a beveled cornice painted white. The plain tympana of the pedimented ends are painted yellow.
4. Structural system: Wooden framing, iron columns.
5. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The cross-gable roof has three pedimented ends. It is covered with Wisconsin fir shakes colored light bluish green.
 - b. Roof ridge: There are cast iron acroteria in fleur-de-lis form also painted light bluish green.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: Open plan, T-shaped.
2. Flooring: Inlaid brick in herringbone pattern.
3. Ceiling finish: Tongue and groove wood painted greenish white.

D. Site: The structures face each other.

Shelter Nineteen: The front pedimented bay faces south, on the edge of the main east-west drive.

Shelter Twenty: The front pedimented bay faces north on the south edge of the main east-west drive. Both lie 1800' west of the east gate on Grand Boulevard.

Prepared by: Peter Dessauer
Field Historian
National Park Service
August, 1975

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Tower Grove Park and Missouri Botanical Garden Project was jointly sponsored by the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service, the Board of Commissioners of Tower Grove Park, and the Board of Trustees of the Missouri Botanical Gardens.

Recorded under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, HABS Principal Architect, the project was conducted during the summer of 1974 and 1975 at the Historic American Buildings Survey field office at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis.

1974 Team: Robert Harvey, Project Supervisor, (Landscape Architect); Steven Bauer, Project Foreman, architect, (University of Kansas); Carolyn Hamm, project historian, (Cornell University); Patrick Ackerman, student assistant architect, (Washington University); Suzanne Fauber, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Virginia); and Carol Macht, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Michigan).

1975 Team: Stuart Mertz, A.S.L.A., project supervisor, (landscape architect); Steven Bauer, Project Foreman, (Columbia University); Peter Dessauer, project historian, (Clemson University); Lennard A. Roberts, student assistant architect, (Cornell University); John R. Temmink, student assistant architect, (University of Virginia); and Theodore Torpy, landscape architect, (WASO).

The drawings were revised by HABS architect Paul Dolinsky, and the written data were edited by HABS Architectural Historian Denys Peter Myers, in the HABS Washington office in 1983. The photographs were taken by HABS/HAER Photographer Jet Lowe in 1983. -